

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0027], **previously replaced in the Amendment dated June 2, 2005**, with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] As seen in Fig. 3A, in one embodiment of the invention, the bottom surface 16 also includes a plurality of slots 18 interposed between apertures 14. The slots 18 are dimensioned so as to receive one or more metal reinforcing strips 30 (Fig. 7). The metal reinforcing strips can be of any suitable dimension so long as they fit within slots [[19]] 18 and are capable of spanning the inner dimension (Fig. 2) of the drainage grate, whereby they are retained within the reinforcing member 10 by flange portions 7. A preferred metal strip according to the invention, shown [[general]] generally at 30 in Fig. 7, is configured so as to have shoulder portions 32 which are adapted to rest adjacent flange portions 7, and a thicker body portion 34 for providing additional support to the middle portion of the drainage surface. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 7, at least some of the metal slots further include notches 36. When the reinforcing member includes securing detents [[18]] 8 (Fig. 3B), the notches 36 prevent those reinforcing strips 30 adjacent the detents 8 from interfering with the crimping or stamping of the flange portions into the adjacent detents.